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# BLOOD GROUPS AND INBREEDING IN SYRIA

WILLIAM C. BOYD AND LYLE G. BOYD
*Forsyth Memorial, Massachusetts Memorial Hospitals, School of Medicine, Boston, Massachusetts*

(1) The anthropology of the Near East is an intricate subject, but in view of the significance of the region for the prehistoric and early historic development of man, it is of importance. Rather than attempting to labor a point probably already considered by most readers, we may simply refer to the remarks on this subject of Keppers and Furr ('34), Field ('35), Keith ('35), and Shrubsall ('39).

Knowledge of the physical anthropology of this region, as Shrubsall ('39) points out, is meager. In particular, few studies of characteristics known to be inherited in a definite way, such as "taste-blindness", or blood groups, have been made (compare Boyd, '39 b). We believe that our study (carried out in 1937 when one of us held a Guggenheim fellowship) on the incidence of the M,N types was the first to be made in the region covered by us.

(2) We were particularly anxious to determine the blood groups of the Bedouin, previously tested for A and B by Shrubsall ('35 b), and reported to be very high in group O, thus resembling some North American Indian tribes. Our results on the Bedouin tested by us did not support this picture (Boyd and Boyd, '39; Kayaal, Boyd and Boyd, '39), and we therefore desired to test also some villagers for comparison. Bmerj seemed of special interest because it was known to represent a highly inbred population, and because a thorough sociological survey was being carried out there by Miss Anne Fuller. Mezraghara was of interest as a typical mountain village, part Christian and part Moslem. We wished to test some Arme-